GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3165
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
IMPORT OF FLOWERS
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of flowers imported during the last three years; variety-wise;

(b) the countries from which these flowers have been imported;

(c) whether these varieties of flowers are available in our country; and

(d) if so, the compelling reasons for importing these flowers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) : Cut flowers & floral buds for bouquet or ornamental purposes are classified under Exim Code Subheading No.06.03 of ITC (HS) Classification of export & import items.Import data for flowers are not compiled on variety -wise basis. Total import of these items during the last three years is as follows:

YEAR	Qty. (in Tons.)
1997-98	0.4
1998-99	5.6
1999-2000	31.6

(April-Dec.99)

These flowers have mainly been imported from Europe, East Asia and Australia.India has been following a consistent policy for gradual removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 was free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Further 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1.4.99. Import restrictions on 714 tariff lines were removed on 31.3.2000. Import restrictions have been removed in line with the economic liberlization policy being followed since 1991 and also in accordance with the country`s commitment to multilateral trading regime. Removal of import restriction on flowers was in line with the general policy of the Government. As per latest domestic production data available with Government, 45916341 MT. offlowers were produced in the country during the year 1998-99. As can be seen above, the present level of import is unlikely to affect the interest of domestic producers adversely. However, Government is constantly monitoring the import and all permissible measures available within the frame work of the multilateral trading regime will be taken to ensure that domestic producers` interests are not affected. Towards that end the import duty on these items has already been revised upwards from 15% to 35% in the budget for the year 2000-2001.